

STATINTL



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Is Association

With CIA Good?

Some candidates in West Virginia have made certain that their biographies include the information that they had been employees of the Central Intelligence Agency.

We don't know why. The CIA apparently is the world's largest, most powerful and most inept espionage agency.

It was the CIA, you will recall, that didn't have the slightest advance knowledge of the meticulously-planned 1963 Tet offensive launched against all the major cities in South Vietnam.

It was the same CIA, presently busy with its own private war in Laos, that didn't anticipate the North Vietnamese thrust across the demilitarized zone.

The massing of troops, the stockpiling of supplies and other activities that precede large military offensives should have been noticed by somebody on our side, we would think.

Editorials—

Why Isn't There Greater Outcry Against the CIA?

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Literate Americans know, but may not care, that a taxpayer government espionage agency is waging a not-so-secret war in Laos against Communist insurgents in that country.

The administration cannot afford to send military troops into Laos, for such a move would be interpreted as an escalation of the war—which it surely would be.

In view of the mounting public distaste for American military adventures in other people's countries, we cannot understand why there is no outcry against the use of civilian CIA "troops" in Laos.

If more were known about the CIA, public indifference might change to outrage. Here are some episodes in which the CIA was involved, each of which outraged us:

►The CIA's spy plane over Russia demolished President Eisenhower's sincere efforts to improve relations with the Soviets. How would you like it if Russian spy planes were dispatched over America?

►The CIA conducted an armed intervention in order to save Guatemala from leftist political elements of which the prevailing powers didn't approve. Internal politics in Guatemala aren't any of America's business. How would you like it if Guatemalan spies worked to discredit one of the American political parties?

►The CIA secretly financed Radio Free Europe, which many of us innocently believed was supported wholly by private contributions. The CIA's takeover of RFE thoroughly stripped the radio station of credibility. How would you like it if a foreign spy network beamed radio messages into America under the cover of "information?"

►The CIA planned and directed the Bay of Pigs fiasco. How would you like it if a Cuban spy apparatus equipped an army of disgruntled American exiles and dispatched them as an invasion force bent on the overthrow of the government?

►The CIA conducted a military operation in the Dominican Republic to prevent a rebellion which would have re-

stored to power a president whom rightist forces had deposed. How would you like it if foreign spies had intervened in the American revolution in support of George III?

►The CIA gave armed support to the overturn of a Congo government and had a strong role in the overthrow of Dictator Diem of South Vietnam, an accomplishment which produced another dictator more pleasing to Washington.

In none of these enterprises has the CIA enhanced the name of the United States of America. To the contrary, it has given support to the spreading viewpoint that the United States is a meddling power which has contributed enormously to the unsettled state of the world.

In all of these enterprises the CIA has been answerable to no one except presidents who, incredibly, had no compunction about conferring the power to make war upon an intelligence agency.

And, if we've got you to thinking about the CIA, think about this: it has 18,000 employees, 6,000 of whom are working in clandestine services, according to Victor L. Marchetti, a former CIA agent, who is writing a book about the CIA. The CIA budget, Marchetti maintains, is \$6 billion a year.

Marchetti may be wrong on every count. The number of CIA agents involved in clandestine activities and the annual CIA budget are "secrets" withheld from the American people.

And one more observation: the administration has obtained a temporary order against publication of Marchetti's book. Naturally.